

Committee Name:	Board of Directors	Session #:	1
Committee Chair:	Ed Coates		
Minutes recorded by:	Carrie Stolar	Date/time of meeting:	4/15/2024 8:00 PM ET

Actions Taken:

1. None taken.

Number of committee members present:	17	Absent:	1	Guests:	1
Committee members present/virtual (list all, including chair and vice chair): Ed Coates - President; Crystie McGrail - VP of Local Operations; Julie Dussliere - VP of Administration; Robin Smith - VP of Programs; Carrie Stolar - Secretary; Jill Gellatly – Treasurer; Peter Guadagni (Immediate Past President); Katie Kenyon (Legal Counsel); Dawson Hughes – CEO; At-Large Directors: Sue Nutty (Breadbasket); Charles Cockrell (Colonies); Susan Ehringer (Great Lakes); Paige Buehler (Northwest); John King (Oceana); Kris Wingenroth (South Central); Britta O’Leary (Southeast); Jeff Commings (Southwest).					
Not present: Kenny Brisbin - VP of Community Services					
Guests: Patty Miller.					

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 PM ET.

1. Agenda review and declarations of conflict of interest (Ed): There were no changes to the agenda or conflicts of interest.
2. Approval of Mar 2 and 3 BOD meeting minutes (Carrie): Carrie will make modifications to the minutes based on comments in Community. The amended minutes will be posted in Community, and Carrie will ask for email approval by the end of week.
3. Minute of happiness (Jeff): Jeff shared that he drove to LA in March to be a contestant on Wheel of Fortune. The episode will air on Monday, April 22. Tune in to see how he did and to hear him talk about Masters swimming.
4. USMS Role in the international swimming governance structure (Patty Miller): Patty, the current chair of United States Aquatic Sports (USAS), gave a general overview of the organization and the international swimming community. World Aquatics (AQUA) requires that each country/national federation only be represented by one entity. That entity is for the United States is USAS. USMS is an equal partner in USAS with the other 4 aquatics national governing bodies (artistic swimming, swimming, diving, and water polo). USAS is a go-between to AQUA and to the continental organization (Pan Am Aquatics). Voting on international rules, bidding on competitions, and getting people on committees, the AQUA bureau, on the Pan Am Aquatics executive committee all go through USAS. She also gave an overview of AQUA, how it operates and said it overhauled its constitution in 2023. She described the role and responsibilities of its congress and bureau. Every member/country (209 members) in AQUA has representation in the congress. The congress selects its bureau members. The bureau is analogous to the USMS BOD. It passes the budget, does policy changes, and oversees the executive director of AQUA. Prime areas of focus in the new constitution of AQUA are gender equity and geographic diversity in representation. Another area of focus is athletes. The bureau of AQUA consists of 39 members plus the president, and the head of athletes is an ex-officio member of the Bureau. Integrity is another focus. AQIU (Aquatics Integrity Unit) covers doping and ethics violations, and is the international version of Safe Sport. Technical committees deal with a specific sport and suggest technical rules for a sport. The chair of the Masters Technical Committee is Nadine Day. Masters and World Aquatics, in the past, were focused on world championships. Now they are more focused on development of aquatics for life - maintaining a healthy lifestyle, through aquatics, for life. There is an opportunity to bring Masters to other countries that don’t have it in the form of clinics, coaching education, and competition. For AQUA, the bureau decides who is on each committee. The process includes lots of lobbying and trading. Dale Neuberger has been very successful in placing people from the U.S. on AQUA committees, and those people have performed well. PanAm Aquatics (PAQ), a continental organization, feeds into AQUA. Other continental organizations include Oceana, Africa, Asia, Europe, etc. PAQ also has technical committees. Our representatives on the Masters Committee are Nadine Day and Ed Tsuzuki. PAQ has an Athlete Committee and Mel Goldstein is the athlete’s representative from USMS.

Questions: Robin: When USMS is asked to provide officials, who is asking? Patty said that some requests are sent directly to the sport (like Masters) even if the request comes from USAS. The Officials Committee should always be at the ready as usually it is a quick turnaround. If anyone has any other questions, please send them to Ed and he will send them to Patty. Ed will post Patty's presentation in Community.

5. CEO update (Dawson):
 - a The dashboard of metrics was sent out today. The financials that are included are still budget numbers.
 - b The cashflow forecast is underway with Gary/Finance Committee. It will be shared in May.
 - c The transgender task force has met, and its work is not complete. An update will be provided in May or June.
 - d The sanction improvement working group has had one meeting.
 - e An in-person staff meeting will take place May 1- 3 in Sarasota. USMS is looking at holding an OW race in 2025 alongside the USA-S OW championship.
 - f Grown-Up Swimming has 21 league directors. The Nashville league has already started registration. Seattle, San Diego, SF/Bay Area, and Orange County are new. All are listed on GUS.com.
6. Review of proposed amendments to Part 4 and NBR procedures (Katie): Ed said that we will vote next month about moving the amendments forward. Per Katie, Juliet Cox came up with the scenario that was shared. If anyone has any other questions about the proposed changes, please reach out to Katie. The scenario is representative of a more typical type of grievance and highlights the limitations in the current rules that might limit a swimmer's options to pursue a grievance. It also demonstrates circumstances where the grievance could also go directly to the NBR in the event an LMSC is not equipped to handle the process and administer a consistent process. The BOD appreciated the scenario and agrees that it is a good option to have a direct line to the NBR. Ed asked that any questions, comments, or scenarios be posted in Community.
7. Volunteer Communication Strategy (Ed):
 - a LMSC/Zone Communication calls – The anticipated timing of the calls is June/July, and the proposed teams are listed in the agenda. A working group will be created to form questions to be covered and materials that we want to provide for the calls. Peter asked if at-large directors will be communicating with their zones? Ed will redo the zone call assignments to reflect this and pair the at-large directors with an EC member. He will work on agenda topics and create a post in Community.
 - b Other member communications opportunities with the BOD:
 - i Summer communications (above)
 - ii Annual meeting townhall,
 - iii Other opportunities/options include a budget review forum in November and zone meetings.
 - iv Discussion took place about shortening the minutes approval cycle.
 - v The Oregon LMSC is putting a proposal forward to introduce legislation about opening BOD meetings to interested USMS members as non-participatory guests.
8. Kris Wingenroth thanked those that completed the test election applications. The go live date is May 1. If you are an at-large director and are running again, please send Kris an email.
9. Peter reminded everyone to complete the BOD assessment. Paige thanked those that have already completed it.
10. The next BOD meeting will be on May 20 at 8 PM Eastern Time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 PM ET.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Stolar, Secretary